



July 24, 2019

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Ex Parte* Communication: WC Docket Nos. 19-195, 11-10

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On July 22, 2019, Mike Jacobs and the undersigned of ITTA met separately with Arielle Roth of the Office of Commissioner O’Rielly, Travis Litman of the Office of Commissioner Rosenworcel, Preston Wise of the Office of Chairman Pai, and Randy Clarke of the Office of Commissioner Starks regarding the Draft Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (R&O and FNPRM) for the Digital Opportunity Data Collection.¹

We reiterated our support of Commission efforts to develop more precise broadband deployment data. As noted in the *R&O and FNPRM*, “accurate broadband deployment data is critical to the Commission’s efforts to bridge the digital divide.”² And the success of those efforts hinges to a crucial degree on “understanding where broadband is available and where it is not.”³ ITTA is a member of the Broadband Mapping Coalition (Coalition) and maintains that the Coalition’s Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric (BSLF) offers an excellent means to identify both served and unserved areas, making it of essential value in closing the digital divide.

We noted that the decision to move forward with a new data collection that will gather geospatial broadband service availability data while deferring adoption of a broadband-serviceable location tool fails to take into account both the amount of time it will take to develop the new data collection⁴ and the time it would take for completion of the BSLF for the entire country. We urged the Commission to more accurately reflect in the *R&O and FNPRM* the time

¹ *Establishing the Digital Opportunity Data Collection*, WC Docket Nos. 19-195, 11-10, Report and Order and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC-CIR 1908-02 (*R&O and FNPRM*).

² *R&O and FNPRM* at ¶ 1.

³ *Id.*

⁴ The Office of Economics and Analytics (OEA), in consultation with USAC, the Wireline Competition Bureau (WCB) and the International Bureau (IB), must designate the precise specifications for the collection, modify the list of fixed broadband technologies that should be reported in the new collection and define the GIS compatible file format(s) in which fixed providers will be required to submit their polygons. *R&O and FNPRM* at ¶15. USAC, working with OEA, WCB, and IB, must develop a new collection platform and create an online portal for local, state, and Tribal governmental entities and members of the public to review and dispute the broadband coverage polygons filed by fixed providers under the new collection. *Id.* at ¶ 18.

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it would take for completion of the BSLF on a nationwide basis. The draft, relying on the speculative contentions in several filings, asserts that it would take several years to complete the BSLF. In reality, as the Coalition previously has specified, creation of the BSLF for the entire country could be completed within 12 to 15 months of the work start date.⁵

Further, we urged the Commission to modify the draft to include a tentative conclusion that creation of the BSLF can and should proceed in parallel with development by USAC of the platform and processes for submission of polygon-based reports and the online portal for review and dispute of providers' filings, as well as the development by OEA of the precise specifications for the broadband coverage polygons and the GIS compatible filing format(s) service providers will be required to use.

We also expressed concern that the draft lacks clarity regarding stakeholder input on the development by USAC of the platform and processes for the filing by providers of polygon-based reports and the online portal for governmental and public review of providers' submissions. We urged the Commission to specifically provide for input by stakeholders into the development of those procedures and platforms.

Finally, we urged the Commission to clarify that the first polygon-based reports would be due at the later of six months after the filing platform is ready or when GIS compatible filing format(s) have been established.

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned with any questions regarding this submission.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Genevieve Morelli
President

cc: Arielle Roth
Travis Litman
Preston Wise
Randy Clarke

⁵ See Letter from B. Lynn Follansbee, VP-Law & Policy, USTelecom, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket Nos. 11-10, 10-90 (Mar. 21, 2019); Letter from B. Lynn Follansbee, VP-Law & Policy, USTelecom, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket Nos. 11-10, 10-90 (May 28, 2019).